

JURISDICTION:

VIRGIN ISLANDS

General Reference:

This chapter summarizes Virgin Island statutes related to speed.
Virgin Islands Code (Updated through 1996)

Basis for a Speed Law Violation:

Basic Speed Rule:

No person shall drive a motor vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing. Title 20, 494(a)

Statutory Speed Limit:

55 MPH (40 MPH for trucks or busses) on the Melvin H. Evans Highway on St. Croix Title 20, 494(b) & (c)
40 MPH on certain portions of Centerline Road¹ Title 20, 494(b)
35 MPH for motorcars, pick-up trucks or motorcycles outside town limits Title 20, 494(b)
20 MPH for motorcars, pick-up trucks or motorcycles within town limits Title 20, 494(b)
30 MPH for trucks or busses outside town limits Title 20, 494(c)
10 MPH² for trucks or busses within town limits Title 20, 494(c)

Posted (Maximum) Speed Limit:

I. The Police Commissioner³ may reduce the above speed limits where there such action "is necessary for the public safety." Title 20, 494(e) Note: Virgin Island law does not specifically state whether different highway speed limits may be established either for different types of vehicles, for various weather conditions or for different times of the day.
II. The Police Commissioner is authorized to establish maximum speed limits of not >20 MPH on streets and roads in housing projects or developments. Title 20, 494(f)

Minimum Speed Limit:

No person shall drive a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede, hinder or obstruct the normal and reasonable movement of traffic. Title 20, 494a(a)

Posted (Minimum) Speed Limit:

Based on engineering and traffic investigations, the Police Commissioner may establish minimum speed limits on a highway. Title 20, 494a(b)

Other:

Adjudication of Speed Law Violations:

Civil/Criminal Adjudication of Violation:

All Speed Law Violations are Misdemeanors. Title 14, 1 & 2 and Title 20, 544(f)

Other:

Sanctions Following an Adjudication of a Speed Law Violation:

Criminal Sanctions:

¹his speed limit applies on "Centerline Road west of King's Hill on St. Croix." Title 20, 494(b)

No person shall race on a bicycle or ride a bicycle at a speed of more than 10 miles per hour on the public streets or highways." Title 23, 206 The sanctions for violation are imprisonment for not more than 30 days and/or a fine of not more than \$20. Title 23, 401(a)

such action is subject to approval by the governor. Title 20, 494(e)

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Imprisonment:

Term (Day, Month, Years, Etc.):

Not more than **6 months**² Title 20, 544(f)

Mandatory Minimum Term:

None

Fine:

Amount (\$ Range):

Not more than **\$200**² Title 20, 544(f)

Mandatory Min. Fine (\$):

None

Other Penalties:

Traffic School:

Other:

Licensing Action:

Type of Licensing Action

(Susp/Rev):

Revocation via Court Order Title 20, 546

Term of License Withdrawal

(Days, Months, Years, etc.):

The court fixes the revocation period which may be either permanent or temporary. Title 20, 546

Mandatory Minimum Term of

Withdrawal:

None The court's action is discretionary. Title 20, 546

Miscellaneous Sanctions

Not Included Elsewhere:

Persons <18 Years Old. Offender's, who are <18 years old, are subject to the following sanctions: A fine **£\$100**; court ordered license revocation (court determines revocation period); and, vehicle owned and operated by the offender impounded ≤60 days. Title 20, 550

Other Criminal Actions Related to Speeding:

Reckless Driving:

Sanction:

Misdemeanor Title 14, 1 & 2 and Title 20, 492 & 544(a)

Criminal:

Imprisonment (Term):

Not more than **6 months** Title 20, 544(a)

Mandatory Minimum Term

of Imprisonment:

None

Fine (\$ Range):

Not more than **\$500** Title 20, 544(a)

Mandatory Minimum Fine:

None

Administrative Licensing Actions:

Type of Licensing Action

(Susp/Rev):

Revocation via Court Order Title 20, 546

Length of Term of License

Withdrawal Action:

The court fixes the revocation period which may be either permanent or temporary. Title 20, 546

Mandatory Term of License

Withdrawal Action:

None The court's action is discretionary. Title 20, 546

Other:

Limited Vehicle Impoundment. For failure to appear in court on reckless driving offense, an offender's vehicle may be impounded for such time as the court thinks proper. Title 20, 544(c)

Other Criminal Actions Related to Speeding: (continued)

Reckless Driving:

Other: (continued)

Persons <18 Years Old. Offender's, who are <18 years old, are

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	subject to the following sanctions: A fine £\$100 ; court ordered license revocation (court determines revocation period); and, vehicle owned and operated by the offender impounded ≤60 days. Title 20, 550
<u>Negligent Driving</u> ⁴ :	
Sanction:	Misdemeanor Title 14, 1 & 2 and Title 20, 503 & 544(f)
Criminal:	
Imprisonment (Term):	Not more than 6 months Title 20, 544(f)
Mandatory Minimum Term of Imprisonment:	None
Fine (\$ Range):	Not more than \$200 Title 20, 544(f)
Mandatory Minimum Fine:	None
Administrative Licensing Actions:	
Type of Licensing Action (Susp/Rev):	Revocation via Court Order Title 20, 546
Length of Term of License Withdrawal Action:	The court fixes the revocation period which may be either permanent or temporary. Title 20, 546
Mandatory Term of License Withdrawal Action:	None The court's action is discretionary. Title 20, 546
Other:	Persons <18 Years Old. Offender's, who are <18 years old, are subject to the following sanctions: A fine £\$100 ; court ordered license revocation (court determines revocation period); and, vehicle owned and operated by the offender impounded ≤60 days. Title 20, 550

Negligent driving" means "the operation of a vehicle upon the public highways of this Territory in such a manner as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property." Title 20, 503 Note: This section provides that negligent driving is a lesser included offense of reckless driving.

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